

**Congressman Childers' Statement on Health Care Reform Legislation in the House**

July 29, 2009

Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) released the following statement regarding the continued development of health care reform legislation in the House:

"Most of us agree that our health care system needs reform to lower health care costs for working families; however, reform is a complicated issue and one that's too important to do in a hurry. It is more important that we get health care reform right than get it fast.

"Today, the Blue Dog Coalition, of which I am a proud member, reached an agreement to allow more time for consideration and negotiation before a bill is brought to the House floor. This slow-down marks a victory for Blue Dogs, who have stood firm in their commitment to health care reform that makes sense over reform that meets a self-imposed deadline.

"In the grand scheme of things, whether we pass a health care bill in the House in August or early this fall is a minor detail. Whatever we pass will take a significant amount of time to fully implement, and it will have major ramifications for years to come. We need to take the time to get this right. We need a bill that will not only pass; we need a bill that will work.

"I hope the House will ultimately be able to craft a bill that focuses on lowering costs for hard-working families, allows people to keep their current plan and doctor, and increases competition in the marketplace. I also hope this legislation does so in a bipartisan, fiscally responsible manner. During today's tough economic times especially, we have to balance the need to reform our health care system with the need to practice fiscal discipline. I will keep a close watch on proposals being considered in the Senate Finance Committee, and will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come up with a health care reform bill that makes sense for the American people."

*A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit <http://www.childers.house.gov/>*

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